THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Government of India is already implementing a number of schemes under which various types of financial and technical assistance are provided for development of various sectors including agriculture, industry and mineral sectors. Implementation of plan schemes is an on-going process and normally schemes are approved for implementation during the 5-Year Plan period. Information regarding total investment made in agriculture and industry is not maintained.

(e) and (f) No separate scheme for infrastructure assistance for developing agro industries is administered. However, a budgetary outlay of Rs. 500 crores (including for the north-eastern region) has been provided under the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme for development of export infrastructure, out of which 80% of the funds are earmarked for allocation to the States on the basis of certain approved criteria including the export performance of the previous year. Most of the States have been utilizing the amounts released to them under the ASIDE Scheme.

Embargo on Indian Traditional Medicines by some Countries

24. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the recent reports on embargo on Indian Traditional medicines by certain countries;

(b) whether such an embargo is permissible under the current multilateral trade regime;

(c) if so, the details thereof; if not, whether Government has taken up the issue with concerned countries; and

(d) whether Government has issued any advisory to the Indian entities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. There have been reports about Ayurvedic/Unani drugs from India allegedly containing

potentially harmful levels of metals such as lead, mercury and/or arsenic. According to the information available, a health warning has been issued by the Canadian Government.

As per the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), WTO members are allowed to take or adopt measures, including an embargo on imports, for the protection of life or health of human beings, animals and plants, provided such measures are based on scientific principles, are not discriminatory in content, and are not trade restrictive.

Health Canada, the Canadian Ministry of Health, has been approached for providing details of the methodology, analysis, basis of their inference etc. The matter was also taken up in the last meeting of the India-Canada Joint Commission held in India in September, 2005.

Government has also advised Ayurveda, Unani & Siddha medicine manufacturers to give a self- certification regarding the presence of heavy metals, within the permissible limits, in their export products.

Proposals of TERC

25. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) at its recent meeting held in October, 2005, decided to be more pro-active in increasing interaction with neighbours, especially the less developed economies;

(b) if so, the exports, imports and balance of trade with respect to each of these countries during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the targets, if any, fixed for the current year and the years to follow, with respect to each of these less developed economies, and the strategy and steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, in its recent meeting held in October, 2005 decided to enhance the level of economic engagements with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan.